

JOHN W. ELLIS.

AUGUST 24, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 10694.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10694) granting a pension to John W. Ellis, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

The proposed beneficiary served in Company K, Fifth Regiment United States Infantry, from October 25, 1858, to October 25, 1863, during which period he participated in the campaign against the Navajoe Indians, and also in the civil war. Upon the recommendations of his officers he received a commission in the First New Mexico Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. Subsequently he was employed as clerk in the quartermaster's department at Forts Bascom, Craig, and McRae, N. Mex. While thus employed at the latter post it became necessary to send troops after a band of Mountain Apaches, which was devastating the country around. Captain Gilmore, commanding the post, placed claimant in charge of seventy men of the Thirty-eighth United States Colored Troops and seventy Mexican spies in pursuit of the Indians. This selection was made because of Ellis's familiarity with the country and knowledge of Indian fighting.

He succeeded in getting on their trail, and on the morning of the fourth day overtook them and opened up the fight at a distance of only 50 yards. At the first fire by the Indians Ellis was wounded, one shot passing through his stomach, about 2 inches on left side of navel, the other entering on right side of windpipe, passing downward and lodging in left shoulder. For these wounds he was treated by Actg. Asst. Surg. William B. Lyon, as shown by the affidavits on file with your committee.

As the law makes no provisions for pensions to civil employés of the Government, no application has been filed in the Pension Office. Congress, however, has in similar cases granted relief, and as the case under consideration is one of particular merit, by reason of long and meritorious service prior to the incurrence of the above-described wounds, your committee unhesitatingly report favorably on the accompanying bill, and ask that it do pass.